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REMARKS

The present Request For Continued Examination is filed to allow proper consideration of applicant's position of a patentable advance in the art. Applicant's previous Amendment dated May 8, 2006 failed to include an important distinction compared to Tai et al. U.S. Patent 5,667,743 A. Accordingly this distinction, set forth below, supports applicant's remarks made in the previous Amendment of the inapplicability of the prior art publication.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) based on Tai et al. U.S. Patent 5,667,743 A. Paragraph 4 of the Office communication states:

Applicant argues (page 3) that Tai et al does not disclose differing solvent concentrations for a conditioning solution and a drawing solution with a requirement that a solvent concentration of the drawing solution is less than the conditioning solution. Examiner responds that Tai et al does teach this feature (col. 6, lines 6-29 (particularly lines 6-10)).

The Office position is correct concerning that Tai et al. directly disclose that the solvent concentration of the drawings solution is less than the conditioning solution.

However what is also present in claim 1 is that drawing also takes place in the conditioning solution. The omission of this wording in Applicant's previous response is regretted.

Attention is respectfully requested of the limitations present in independent claim 1 namely "wherein the improvement comprises drawing the fiber while in contact with the conditioning solution of (b) by applying a draw ratio greater than 1:1." Thus a first fiber drawing step is present in (b). Thereafter in step (c) a second fiber drawing step is present wherein the language of the previously amended claim was introduced which is "and the aqueous conditioning solution of step (b) and the aqueous drawing solution of step (c) represent separate solutions with the solvent concentration of the drawing solution less than the conditioning solution."

Therefore Applicants position can be summarized that the present claims require two drawing steps. In contrast Tai et al. U.S. Patent 5,667,743 teach and disclose a simple drawing step. The attached side by side comparison sets forth this distinction.

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Process Steps of Tai et al. U.S. Patent 5,667,743

vs.

Present Patent Application

	U.S. Patent 5,667,743	Present Patent Application
Step (a)	Coagulating Polymer	Coagulating Polymer
Step (b)	Contacting with Conditioning Solution	Contacting with Conditioning Solution and Drawing at Ratio Greater Than 1:1
Step (c)	Drawing Fiber	Drawing Fiber

Again, it is pointed out that the Amendment filed May 8, 2006 introduced a requirement for different solvent concentrations in the conditioning solution and drawing solution (which limitation is admittedly met by Tai et al.). However, the different solvent concentrations is not met by Tai et al. when taking into consideration that drawing also takes place with the fiber present at two different solvent concentrations.

It may be helpful to demonstrate compare Tai et al. and the present process with use of a solvent of DMAc, i.e. dimethylacetamide, with formation of CaCl_2 i.e. calcium chloride, a salt.

Tai et al. U.S. Patent 5,667,743

- 1) Fiber coagulation: Temperature and concentration of the coagulant solution is defined. A fiber structure is formed. This fiber has little orientation and is extremely weak. During this process water and CaCl_2 diffuse into the fiber and DMAc concentration is reduced.
- 2) Fiber conditioning: In this step water and CaCl_2 are replaced with DMAc. A specified DMAc concentration is prescribed. A fiber structure is developed for drawing (orientation) in a separate step.
- 3) Fiber drawing: This is a separate step where in the fiber is drawn (oriented) and a fiber with acceptable physical properties is developed.

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Present Patent Application

Performing fiber drawing (developing fiber orientation) and fiber conditioning simultaneously, followed by a separate drawing process using a different DMAc/Water concentration, produces a fiber with superior properties vs. the fiber described in the original wet spinning patent namely Tai et al. U.S. Patent 5,667,743. Also there is an optimum distribution of the total fiber draw which produces with properties superior to those obtainable using the conditions described in the original wet spinning patent.

As an added note, the separate drawing processes are performed by drawing the fiber between separate roll sets which isolate the tension on the fiber during the sequential drawing processes.

It is pointed out that David J. Rodini is an inventor of the present patent application. Also, David J. Rodini is the second named inventor in Tai et al. U.S. Patent 5,667,743. An improvement is present in the invention of the present patent application in producing a fiber with superior properties by performing fiber drawings (developing fiber orientation) and fiber conditioning simultaneously, followed by a separate drawing process using a different solvent/water concentration vs. the simple drawing step in Tai et al. U.S. Patent 5,667,743.


Reconsideration of the Office position is requested.

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In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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